

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3671

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.(currently amended) A method of no-till farming within soil, the method comprising the steps of:

~~providing a darkened~~ ~~darkening the color of~~ stubble of a cultivated crop ~~within the soil without affecting the soil color;~~

forming a furrow within the soil;

and introducing seed within the furrow whereby the darkened stubble absorbs energy radiation to warm the soil temperature.

2.(original) The method of claim 1 wherein the darkened stubble is residues of cultivated crops.

3.(original) The method of claim 2 wherein the cultivated crops are cereal grains.

4.(original) The method of claim 3 wherein the residues of cereal grain are selected from the group consisting of wheat, barley, oats and rice.

5.(original) The method of claim 1 wherein the darkened stubble is darkened by application of a dark colored pigment.

6.(original) The method of claim 1 wherein the darkened stubble is darkened by genetically altering the color of the stubble.

7.(currently amended) A method of no-till farming comprising providing a darkened color stubble of a cultivated crop without affecting the soil color.

8.(original) The method of claim 7 wherein the darkened stubble is residues of cultivated crops.

9.(original) The method of claim 7 wherein the darkened stubble is residues of cereal grains.

10.(original) The method of claim 9 wherein the residues of cereal grain are selected from the group consisting of wheat, barley, oats and rice.

11.(original) The method of claim 7 wherein the darkened stubble is darkened by application of a dark colored pigment.

12.(original) The method of claim 7 wherein the darkened stubble is darkened by genetically altering the color of the stubble.